

## ERSTWHILE HONOLULANS NOW FIGURE IN SAN FRANCISCO

A Bootblack Who Made Local  
Shining Famous—Water-  
front Crimps Gone

By ERNEST N. SMITH

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 8.—Hawaii will ever have a prominent part in the activities of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, more so perhaps than any other State or nation—and the pity of it is Hawaii can't take full advantage of it. Wherever officially the exposition officials go, wherever an exposition assemblage appears, in the very forefront of things, generally even ahead of President Moore stands a coal-black coon who some years ago gave Honolulu a snappy idea of metropolitan activity by running a bootblack stand, the like of which had never been seen in Honolulu.

Such activity as he displayed is not without its reward, for he is now the official trumpeter of the Panama-Pacific Exposition. Wearing a gorgeous white, gold laced uniform with the dignity of a peacock parading his tail, William—I think his name was, though I'm not sure—rubs elbows with official life and from a secure position above the common crowd, blasts a way clear for any party he may accompany.

I well remember the poor excuses for shines the Portuguese and Oriental bootblacks used to give in Honolulu—wily-washy efforts which produced just enough of an effect to make it possible for a man with a nerve to demand a dime. Enter William—or whatever his name was—with a modest stand and a pleasant smile as a bidder for local trade. The first few patrons after they had recovered their astonishment made remarks that flew across town like a rise in sugar quotations. Some went to see what a real shine really was—and gained a thorough education. Others, with ancient memories of shines had on the Coast, hastened to revive them—and did.

One's toes fairly tingled with William hovering over them with brushes and cloths. Never in the history of Honolulu had anyone received such shines—you could actually see your face in your shoe tip. You walked more carefully to preserve the sight. And a whisk broom operation went with each shine—such a brush as set the other "booties" green with envy. With a really stiff brush or whisk, he surged up and down your back, beat a light tattoo on your chest, waltzed down one leg and two-stepped up the other, "turkey-trotted" around your collar, and deftly nipping the dime you was crazy to give him, left you standing upright, chest thrown out, spotless from top to toe, a man ready to face the world, and hoping the world would see you before a flock of dust alighted.

Auwe! It was a seven-days wonder in Honolulu, and William cornered the dime market. The other wily-washy bootblacks scoffed, but a cartoon of themselves appeared in it was no avail. Some finally did get a little "elbow grease" into their work, but one saw it was painful and didn't relish the extra effort. There is nothing so "catching" as good work done with a smile.

Young men take note of this small history. William departed, leaving sorrowing friends, but he has climbed and "climbed" well. Rarely can the spotlight land anywhere in official San Francisco but in its very center is seen a black, smiling face surmounting a gold-laced white uniform—long trumpet raised majestically, a readiness to out-bugle Gabriel. It is William—the envy of every small boy in San Francisco—the incarnation of dignity and poise and self-satisfaction. It is William—in his glory.

**Shades of the Departed.**  
Something else upset Honolulu once—as things occasionally do. It was the advent of two gentlemen from San Francisco who at once preempted a prominent position in Honolulu's eye. There they remained for some months, until shortly after a cartoon of themselves appeared labeled "The Prison Yawns Before, the Turkey Stalks Behind." They were escorted to the dock by certain of Honolulu's officials and were soon melting over the horizon.

Turk and Lewis—famous as water-front crimps, as active gentlemen as ever cracked a salver over the head and sold him to shipmaster, as persuasive men as ever argued before a bar of justice—as cunning a pair as ever lived off a community and made the community pay well. Only an unsavory memory lingers in the minds of old Honoluluans.

Turk, I understand, is now driving a bakery wagon in San Francisco. He professes not to speak to a man as low as Lewis—at least in public—and Lewis is above noticing Turk—also in public.

But if Burlingame, California, ever has need for a prominent citizen to lead a good work, if Burlingame ever needs an active citizen to propose suitable improvements, if Burlingame's two political parties ever need a man to speak on Civic Righteousness, on Public Decency, on City Purity, then all eyes turn to the Lewis end of the Turk-Lewis combination—I say all eyes turn toward Lewis, because he is the first man up.

A prominent citizen is Lewis—sleek, well-fed, well-dressed—ready to rise to civic duty with their party, whichever seems to be getting away with it first. He will give expert opinion on any matter the town may be considering, he will wisely nod and affirm the verdict of any experts the city may call in.

He is an all-around comfort in power which happens to be suffering.

During the day he is a handy man for one of the largest corporations in San Francisco—but at home—he's geniality itself. He exudes civic pride—he is in the forefront of town endeavor—a fearsome man nevertheless to have against you—and he leaves an uneasy feeling with those he professes to support.

### COLLEGE BOY'S SHOCKING SURPRISE.

MOUNDVILLE, W. Va., Aug. 24.—Edward Crim, aged nineteen years, of this city, attending college at Valparaiso, Ind., spent a short vacation with friends in Indiana before starting home, and had planned to surprise his mother, Mrs. Sarah C. Joiner. Yesterday he slipped onto his mother's lawn and tipped to the window. He saw his mother clothed in a shroud in her coffin, she had died two days before. The young man fainted and is in a serious condition.

### FISHER QUERIES KAUAI PLANTERS

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cooking was delectable, and had heard widely-varying opinions on the subject—he came to Hawaii to investigate.

For instance, Mr. Walter McBryde had given as his opinion that the best way to "people the land" is by cooperation between the homesteader and the plantation, whereby the homesteader may have his home and a small acreage and still be in a position to rely for steady employment on plantation work.

In marked contrast to this was the vigorous opinion of Manager Broadbent of Grove farm, the Wilcox estate, that homesteading should be homesteading in fact as well as in name and that the homesteader should be given land and guaranteed fair treatment by the mills so that he could achieve real independence, and there were other opinions varying by many shades.

#### Party Has Fine Trip.

Leaving Honolulu at 8 o'clock Tuesday night, the steamer Mauna Loa had a remarkably fine trip both going and coming, wind and sea being all that could be desired. In the official party were Secretary Fisher and his private secretary, Herbert A. Meyer, Gov. Frear and his secretary, Norman Courtenay, Attorney Olson, of counsel for Frear during the present investigation, Attorney Ashford for Prince Kuhio, a stenographer, P. Maurice McMahon, and three newspapermen.

On the trip to Kauai were a number of Kauai gentlemen, and Charles A. Rice took charge of the party and gave it a personally-conducted tour of the island during the day. At various points other Kauai residents also accompanied the visitors. Landing at Waimea, three autos took the party to the home of Walter McBryde, where a welcome breakfast was waiting, with Mr. McBryde to do the honors. A short stop was made at Port Allen on the way. After breakfast Secretary Fisher and his party got into comfortable chairs on the shady porch and the Secretary held an informal investigation right there of homesteading conditions.

#### Mr. McBryde's Views.

Mr. McBryde did not mince matters in his talk with Secretary Fisher. He declared that in his opinion the solution of the problem of developing Hawaii on more American lines is as McBryde plantation is trying to do, and doing, as was seen yesterday, with considerable success. Here two homesteaders own their house and a small lot, and work largely for McBryde, Makaweli or some other plantation.

"I don't believe in tearing down the industry that has been built up simply for an experiment," said Mr. McBryde. "I do believe most heartily in encouraging homesteading, but I don't think the homesteaders can make a success without a plantation on which to depend for work and steady income."

Mr. McBryde created a sensation in the party by declaring flatfootedly that he believes the big agencies, with the exception of Alexander & Baldwin, are not in favor of trying to develop homesteading. He told Mr. Fisher that when McBryde began his plans and it was proposed to cut up land, he and others were ridiculed, criticized, and in fact, he said were "almost ostracized" by other plantation and agency management. He asserted that Alexander & Baldwin are sincere in their efforts to help the small farmer and are doing their best, but he asserted also that the other agencies and most of the plantations are not. He said that they may be saying they are in favor of homesteading now, but it is because the fight made by the delegate has brought about this investigation and practically forced the other agencies to rally to Gov. Frear and present methods. In fact, Mr. McBryde did some very plain talking. Ashford asked him if it was not a fact that Alexander & Baldwin made the move to open up the McBryde homesteads only after the delegate had filed his complaint and because that complaint was filed. McBryde said he believed the move was made after the complaint was filed but did not know whether or not that was the cause. He made a deep impression as a man evidently anxious to see homesteaders prosper, but doubtful of the feasibility of their doing so entirely independent of plantation help.

**On To Lihue.**  
At ten o'clock the secretary and his party started for Lihue, where a public hearing had been called. A brief inspection was made of the Kalahoe homesteads en route, where there is an encouraging outlook, although there has been a scarcity of water. Just before reaching the town of Lihue Secretary Fisher stopped at Lihue mill and saw some grinding in progress. He stayed here only a few minutes and was then driven to the Lihue hearing in the hall.

**More Plain Talking.**  
At Lihue there were half a hundred prominent men of Kauai gathered to hear the Secretary and after the ice was broken, which was done by Mr. Fisher in his easy, informal way, the Rev. Isenberg made quite a lengthy statement. Mr. Isenberg said that under present conditions he does not think homesteading will succeed, but that as the people are clamoring for the opening up of more lands, he believes it should be given a further trial. He pointed out the many difficulties in the way of homesteading. He criticized Gov. Frear on the point that Frear is not a practical man, said that his land law commission had been composed of city men, with the exception of A. W. Carter, and that it was not practical, and pointed to the laying out of the Kapaa lands as a piece of impractical work. He said he likes the fairchild plan for the disposal of the Territory's public lands, and said he had seen only Japanese who have made a success

of homesteading under present conditions.

Mr. Fisher then began to ask questions straight from the shoulder and kept asking them throughout the hearing, until he certainly left the impression, as several of the Lihue people said afterwards, that he does not believe homesteading has been given a fair trial in Hawaii. He asked Isenberg about the report that Lihue plantation will not part with an acre of its land, and Isenberg said that the plantation had once tried giving a house and lot in fee simple to Portuguese, but they didn't want the gift, and Fisher came back with the question if the reason for this were not because the Portuguese would be entirely dependent on the plantation for their living and couldn't make it any other way.

Some of Mr. Isenberg's objections as to the higher cost of cane production in small farming over plantation growing were discussed and Mr. Fisher went into figures pretty thoroughly, asking about the terms on which Lihue plantation handles the Rice's cane and the Wilcox cane. Mr. Isenberg said that he would be willing to make contracts for milling cane with small growers under the plan, suggested by Mr. Fisher, of a commission to regulate and supervise. At one point in his talk Isen-

berg declared that Gov. Frear is honest in his attempt to encourage homesteading, but that general conditions here are against it.

#### Pretty Sharp Questions.

Secretary Fisher kept putting questions to find out whether the homesteaders have been given any opportunity to achieve independence of plantation control, and apparently was not satisfied that such has been the case, for once or twice his questions were pretty sharp. For instance, Manager Anton Cropp of Koloa Sugar company told how he himself had tried to encourage small farming and that although "everything was done" that could be done, none of the small growers would continue.

Then Fisher started a series of swift questions that were as pointed as anything he has said since coming to the islands. He demanded that Cropp give him one concrete illustration of homesteading on a fair basis that had failed, saying that ever since he had come to the islands plantation managers have been talking to him about homesteaders failing, but they have failed in generalities. "I want to get just one real case, so that I can follow it down and see if there's anything in it," he said. Mr. Cropp did not give him any specific cases and then Fisher fired at him this question: "Isn't it a fact that the plantations here may talk about encouraging homesteaders, but won't give them a chance?" This was a hot one, and Mr. Cropp

disclaimed any such motive so far as he is concerned.

During the hearing Mr. Fisher asked the Lihue people what they would think of a plan to lease back part of the government canal lands to the plantations and open the rest to homesteaders, provided that part of the leasing contract with the plantations guarantee that the mills will take the homesteaders cane on agreed terms. He also wanted to know if the territory should not offer land in sufficient large units so that homesteaders will be able to do all their work on their own lands.

Getting down to principles, he asked if the question before Hawaii is not this: "If the government is going in to homesteading at all, isn't the problem going to be that of fixing the units of the size of homesteads?"

Manager Edward H. W. Broadbent of Grove Farm plantation gave Mr. Fisher one of the straightest talks the Secretary has had from any manager during the investigation. Broadbent declared that in his opinion the McBryde homesteading scheme is not real homesteading at all, but a plan whereby although the homesteaders get a house and lot, they must look to a plantation for work, and that as the system operates, it simply anchors labor to the plantation. Broadbent strongly favored homesteads of at least 160 acres in size, so that a man could develop his own working organization there. This brought up the question of how far 32,000 acres of public

land will go if split up in units of such size as 160 acres, which made a little discussion. Broadbent said that the McBryde system, while preferable to the plantation camp system, is not an independent system and that the homesteader should be independent.

This ended the Lihue hearing, except for some desultory remarks, most of which were to the effect that homesteading has not worked out in theory as it has on paper. Then the party jumped into autos again and drove to the home of C. A. Rice, where there was a luncheon awaiting the hungry men that they will long remember. Mr. Rice set forth a feast over which the guests lingered until after three o'clock. Then into the autos again, and there was a long, fast drive to Hanalei. The party was late and instead of getting out and inspecting the Kapaa homestead sites, the autos raced through Kapaa townsite and went on around windward Kauai. Shortly after six o'clock Hanalei was reached and the Mauna Loa was there waiting. The steamer arrived here at 7:30 this morning.

While Mr. Fisher did not discuss for publication any of the results of the Kauai trip, his questions seemed to be pointing to the big question as to whether there has been a square deal for homesteading in the past in Hawaii, that is, whether opportunity has been given to the homesteader to make himself independent of plantation control. What the answer to this is, in Mr. Fisher's mind, only Mr. Fisher knows.



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